

REMARKS

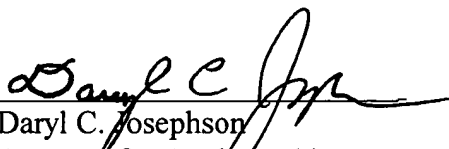
Claim 1 was pending in the above-identified application when filed. The specification is being amended to correct errors and improve clarity. Claim 1 is being amended and new claims 2-83 are being added. Claims 1-83 are currently pending.

No new matter is being added. In the specification, the phrase referring to "automatic" capabilities has been removed from the concluding paragraph of the Background section and more properly placed in the Summary of the Invention section; the specification section title of "Detailed Description" also now more accurately indicates that embodiments of the invention are discussed therein. Support for the added claims can further be found at least at pages 7-8 of the specification.

If the Examiner has any questions or needs any additional information, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (650) 843-8796. If for any reason an insufficient fee has been paid, please charge the insufficiency to Deposit Account No. 05-0150.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph beginning at **page 2, line 20** has been amended to form 2 (two) sequential paragraphs as follows:

Visiting multiple web sites to check news, obtain stock quotes, examine retail orders, or book travel plans, can be cumbersome and repetitive. Retrieving information from multiple accounts is time consuming. Moreover, many sites require [that the] a user to provide personal information, such as [the] his name, address, credit card number, and email address[of the user]. [This] Providing such information also raises privacy concerns and opens the door for unsolicited emails directed to the user. [When] A user visiting certain web sites[, such as when checking out the competition, a user] may be reluctant to either provide their email address[,] or provide a fake email address [altogether]. __

Accordingly, there is a need for[What is needed is] a method and apparatus that provide[s] for increased ease and convenience in managing a user's Internet communications[, in which information from multiple web sites is automatically retrieved], while at the same time ensuring the user's privacy and minimizing unsolicited email communications with the user.

The paragraph beginning at **page 3, line 3** has been amended to form 2 sequential paragraphs as follows:

[A m]Methods and apparatus according to embodiments of the invention provide for accessing web sites on which the user has an account and providing notification of changes at the site. Embodiments also enable information to be collected, organized, presented and forwarded, such as change or status information corresponding to one or more of a user's accounts. [Improved e]Electronic mail management embodiments are [is] also provided, [allowing all] enabling email to be collected and forwarded from a central site to other email addresses, [or allowing for] or enabling the user to view the email at the central [c]site. [The] A user may, for example, assign individual email

addresses to any number of uses, [for example,] such as an individual email address for use in communicating with a particular commercial web site. Embodiments further enable such information handling to be conducted automatically.

The specification section title beginning at **page 6, line 1** has been amended as follows:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION [OF THE INVENTION]

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A method[for communicating with multiple web sites], comprising:
 - [a]]generating a unique email address when registering with [a particular one] each of [the] multiple web sites;
 - [b]]receiving emails from the multiple web sites at an email control center;
 - [c]]identifying and sorting the emails according to the web sites from which the emails were received; and
 - [d]]forwarding one or more of the emails [on] to a user's email account in accordance with instructions provided by the user to the email control center.

NEW claims 2-83 have been added as follows:

2. A method, comprising:
 - generating an email address to correspond with a user and a network site; and
 - supplying the email address to the network site as a contact email address of the user.
3. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein at least one of the generating and supplying is conducted automatically in response to a request from the network site for the contact email address of the user.

4. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the generating and supplying are conducted automatically in response to a request from the network site for the contact email address of the user.
5. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the generating comprises adding one or more alphanumeric characters with a predetermined email address portion.
6. The method as recited in claim 5, wherein the predetermined email address portion is a high level domain name to which the alphanumeric characters form a string concatenated as a prefix to the predetermined email address portion.
7. The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the high level domain name identifies a central network site.
8. The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the string associates the network site and the user.
9. The method as recited in claim 2, further comprising:
 - receiving at a central site an email from the network site; and
 - processing the email according to the supplied contact email address of the user.
10. The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the processing includes processing the email according to one or more user preferences.
11. The method as recited in claim 9, wherein the processing comprises sorting the email with other user information or automatically forwarding the email to a further email address of the user.

12. The method as recited in claim 11, wherein the other user information comprises at least one of a second user email, a change notification associated with the user or a status notification associated with the user.

13. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the generating and supplying is performed by a browser.

14. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the network and the central site are connected via the Internet.

15. The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the user can suspend use of the supplied contact email address.

16. The method as recited in claim 2, further comprising supplying the unique email address of the user to a further network site as a contact email address.

17. A system, comprising:

generating means for generating an email address to correspond with a user and a network site; and

supplying means coupled to the generating means for supplying the email address to the network site as a contact email address of the user.

18. The system as recited in claim 17, wherein at least one of the generating and supplying is conducted automatically in response to a request from the network site for the contact email address of the user.

19. The system as recited in claim 17, wherein the generating and supplying are conducted automatically in response to a request from the network site for the contact email address of the user.

20. The system as recited in claim 17, wherein the generating comprises adding one or more alphanumeric characters with a predetermined email address portion.

21. The system as recited in claim 20, wherein the predetermined email address portion is a high level domain name to which the alphanumeric characters form a string concatenated as a prefix to the predetermined email address portion.

22. The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the high level domain name identifies a central network site.

23. The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the string associates the network site and the user.

24. The system as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

receiving means coupled to the supplying means for receiving at a central site an email from the network site; and

processing coupled to the supplying means for processing the email according to the supplied contact email address of the user.

25. The system as recited in claim 17, wherein the processing includes processing the email according to one or more user preferences.

26. The system as recited in claim 24, wherein the processing comprises sorting the email with other user information or automatically forwarding the email to a further email address of the user.

27. The system as recited in claim 26, wherein the other user information comprises at least one of a second user email, a change notification associated with the user or a status notification associated with the user.

28. The system as recited in claim 17, wherein the generating and supplying is performed by a browser.

29. The system as recited in claim 17, wherein the network and the central site are connected via the Internet.

30. The system as recited in claim 17, wherein the user can suspend use of the supplied contact email address.

31. The system as recited in claim 17, wherein the supplying means supply the unique email address of the user to a further network site as a contact email address.

32. A computer readable storage medium storing program code for causing a computer to perform the steps of:

generating an email address to correspond with a user and a network site; and
supplying the email address to the network site as a contact email address of the user.

33. A method, comprising:

receiving at a central site a notification from a network site, the notification including an indicator corresponding to a user, the central site and the network site; and
processing the notification in accordance with the indicator.

34. The method as recited in claim 33, wherein the notification is an email and the indicator is an email address of the email.

35. The method as recited in claim 33, wherein the notification comprises status information sent to the central site in response to a user conducting a transaction while visiting the network site.

36. The method as recited in claim 33, wherein the notification comprises status information sent to the central site in response to a detection of a predetermined event status at the network site that corresponds to the user.

37. The method as recited in claim 33, wherein the processing comprises sorting the notification in accordance with the indicator.

38. The method as recited in claim 33, wherein the processing comprises forwarding the notification to a forward email address.

39. The method as recited in claim 33, wherein the processing comprises forwarding information corresponding to the notification to a forward email address.

40. Forwarded information formed according to the method of claim 39.

41. The method as recited in claim 39, wherein the information corresponding to the notification comprises a summary of the notification.

42. The method as recited in claim 39, wherein the information corresponding to the notification comprises a hyperlink to the network site.

43. The method as recited in claim 39, wherein the processing is conducted in accordance with predetermined user parameters.

44. The method as recited in claim 33, wherein the processing comprises forwarding the notification to a forward email address in accordance with at least one of a delivery time parameter, a delivery date parameter, a frequency parameter, an immediate forward parameter or a number of email messages parameter.

45. The method as recited in claim 33, wherein the processing comprises causing an alert corresponding to the notification to be sent to a user device of the user.

46. The method as recited in claim 33, wherein the processing comprises causing a message window to be provided on a user device of the user, the pop-up screen including information corresponding to the notification.

47. The method as recited in claim 46, wherein the causing a message window to be provided is conducted in accordance with receipt of a request from the user.

48. The method as recited in claim 46, wherein the message window is a pop-up window.

49. A system, comprising:

receiving means for receiving at a central site a notification from a network site, the notification including an indicator corresponding to a user, the central site and the network site; and

processing means coupled to the receiving means for processing the notification in accordance with the indicator.

50. The system as recited in claim 49, wherein the notification is an email and the indicator is an email address.

51. The system as recited in claim 49, wherein the notification comprises status information sent to the central site in response to a user conducting a transaction while visiting the network site.

52. The system as recited in claim 49, wherein the notification comprises status information sent to the central site in response to a detection of a predetermined event status at the network site that corresponds to the user.

53. The system as recited in claim 49, wherein the processing comprises sorting the notification in accordance with the indicator.

54. The system as recited in claim 49, wherein the processing comprises forwarding the notification to a forward email address.

55. The system as recited in claim 49, wherein the processing comprises forwarding information corresponding to the notification to a forward email address.

56. The system as recited in claim 55, wherein the information corresponding to the notification comprises a summary of the notification.

57. The system as recited in claim 55, wherein the information corresponding to the notification comprises a hyperlink to the network site.

58. The system as recited in claim 49, wherein the processing is conducted in accordance with predetermined user parameters.

59. The system as recited in claim 49, wherein the processing comprises forwarding the notification to a forward email address in accordance with at least one of a delivery time parameter, a delivery date parameter, a frequency parameter, an immediate forward parameter or a number of email messages parameter.

60. The system as recited in claim 49, wherein the processing comprises causing an alert corresponding to the notification to be sent to a user device of the user.

61. The system as recited in claim 49, wherein the processing comprises causing a message window to be provided on a user device of the user, the pop-up screen including information corresponding to the notification.

62. The system as recited in claim 61, wherein the causing a message window to be provided is conducted in accordance with receipt of a request from the user.

63. The system as recited in claim 61, wherein the message window is a pop-up window.

64. A computer readable storage medium storing program code for causing a computer to perform the steps of:

receiving at a central site a notification from a network site, the notification including an indicator corresponding to a user, the central site and the network site; and processing the notification in accordance with the indicator.

65. A method, comprising:

associating an email address with a network site and a user;
receiving at least one user parameter for processing notifications that include the email address according to the email address;
receiving a notification including the email address; and
processing the notifications.

66. A system, comprising:

associating means for associating an email address with a network site and a user;
parameter receiving means coupled to the associating means for receiving at least one user parameter for processing notifications that include the email address according to the email address;
notification receiving means coupled to the parameter receiving means for receiving a notification including the email address; and
processing means coupled to the notification receiving means for processing the notifications.

67. A computer readable storage medium storing program code for causing a computer to perform the steps of:

associating an email address with a network site and a user;
receiving at least one user parameter for processing notifications that include the email address according to the email address;
receiving a notification including the email address; and
processing the notifications.

68. A method performed by a processing system, comprising:

detecting one or more online events relating to a user of a plurality of network sites;
accumulating event information corresponding to the online events; and
presenting presentation information to a user corresponding to the event information.

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C.1 } 69. A method according to claim 68, wherein the detecting comprises receiving an email change or status notification that includes an email address corresponding to the user and one or more of the network sites.

70. A method according to claim 68, wherein the detecting comprises
monitoring user activity at the one or more network sites; and
responding to a transaction user activity by generating and forwarding for accumulation a corresponding transaction notification.

71. Presentation information formed according to the method of claim 68.

72. The method as recited in claim 68, wherein the presenting comprises causing an alert corresponding to the notification to be sent to a user device of the user.

73. The method as recited in claim 68, wherein the presenting comprises causing a message window to be provided on a user device of the user, the pop-up screen including information corresponding to the notification.

74. The method as recited in claim 68, wherein the causing a message window to be provided is conducted in accordance with receipt of a request from the user.

75. The method as recited in claim 74, wherein the message window is a pop-up window.

76. A system, comprising:

detecting means for detecting one or more online events relating to a user of a plurality of network sites;

accumulating means coupled to the detecting means for accumulating event information corresponding to the online events; and

presenting means coupled to the accumulating means for presenting presentation information to a user corresponding to the event information.

77. A system according to claim 76, wherein the detecting comprises receiving an email change or status notification that includes an email address corresponding to the user and one or more of the network sites.

78. A system according to claim 76, wherein the detecting comprises:

monitoring user activity at the one or more network sites; and

responding to a transaction user activity by generating and forwarding for accumulation a corresponding transaction notification.

79. The system as recited in claim 76, wherein the presenting comprises causing an alert corresponding to the notification to be sent to a user device of the user.

80. The system as recited in claim 76, wherein the presenting comprises causing a message window to be provided on a user device of the user, the pop-up screen including information corresponding to the notification.

81. The system as recited in claim 76, wherein the causing a message window to be provided is conducted in accordance with receipt of a request from the user.

82. The system as recited in claim 81, wherein the message window is a pop-up window.

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83. A computer readable storage medium storing program code for causing a computer to perform the steps of:

detecting one or more online events relating to a user of a plurality of network sites;

accumulating event information corresponding to the online events; and
presenting presentation information to a user corresponding to the event information.

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